



British Rouge Sheep Society Newsletter

Summer 2017

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Hi All

It's hard to believe we are one half way through the year already it hasn't been a vintage year but has been a good grass year.

I would like to thank all members who have taken time to support all the royal shows and their local shows with good quality rouge sheep and rouge crosses. Congratulations to all the winners and encouragement to all the rest as it will pay off in the future.

There has been a few NSA events this year again, I would like to thank all involved in setting up the stands, preparing the stock for the exhibit and looking after the stand during the event.

Remember guys now is the time to get all your registrations of your sheep up to date. Before the price amnesty comes to an end, as we will be going back to late fees and paper charges next year.

I was lucky to be asked to go on a visit to France to visit some Charolais herds Veenden Blue Du Maine and Rouge sheep, it was a very interesting but hectic trip for 5 days. Hopefully we have made some new contacts in France and a Society trip might happen in the future.

As this is my last Newsletter as Chairman I would like to thank past and present secretary as well as council for all there help throughout my term as Chairman and best wishes to the new office bearers to be elected at the AGM



Regards

George Knox

The Year
Letter for 2017
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Balmoral Show 2017

In May I had the honour of judging Balmoral Show, there was a lot of quality stock forward for me to place. It was the girls that came out on top.



Breed Champion
Tullyvallen Superwoman Gimmer



Reserve Champion
Ballylane Still



Championship Line Up

Royal Highland Show

Judge John Tough made his choice of Champion from the Tait pen



Breed Champion
Knighton Sugarbabe Gimmer



Reserve Champion
Knighton SlowSuck

On the Sunday was the pairs judging and the Rouge pair they made the first draw.



Rouge Team Tait

The Knighton flock have had a very busy season, with Jan holding the fort at home I take to the show circuit. Starting off with North Somerset on the 1st may. The rouge won most of the AOC classes and the Gimmer PHT S 1102 Knighton Sugarbabe ended up with her first championship and went on to reserve interbreed champion.



Second show on the list was The Nottinghamshire County show. Not such a great show in the AOC for the Rouge but the shearling ram PHT S 1122 Knighton Slowsuck managed to win his class and get the championship and then luckily got the reserve interbreed champion.



Stafford county show was next where the shearling ram was 1st ram lamb was 2nd gimmer was also 2nd and the ewe lamb was 1st. All of course in the AOC class where our Bleu's beat the Rouge.

Sadly, our next show was the Royal Three Counties where we have now lost our Rouge class so in the AOC we went yet again. But not so sadly we won every class with male champion with the shearling ram MAG S050 Tulleyvallen Shumacher. Reserve male with the ram lamb female champion with the gimmer and reserve female champion was the ewe PHT N 607 Knighton Nora. Champion was then the gimmer and reserve champion was the shearling ram.

With a day at home to freshen up. We then went up the The Royal Highland. Finally, a real Rouge class. But sadly only the older sheep made it as the lambs were far too tired. (And trimmed). We had another great day. 1st shearling ram with Knighton Slowsuck. 1st aged ewe. Knighton Nora. 1st gimmer Knighton Sugarbabe. Male champion with the shearling Ram. Female champion with the gimmer and reserve female with the ewe. Champion was then the gimmer and reserve was the ewe.

Thankful of a bit more of a break to the Great Yorkshire show. Only three sheep for the show. The shearling ram. Knighton Slowsuck. Who was 1st and champion and then went on to become lowland/short wool interbreed champion. 1st with a gimmer PHT S 1117 Knighton Superstar. And 3rd with the ram lamb.

Now we look forward to yet another AOB class at the Royal Welsh show. And of course start to think about what to purchase from the premier sale at Carlisle. Sadly, we won't have any males on offer at the sale as we are extremely short for our customers at home. But if anyone is desperate for some of our bloodlines please don't hesitate to contact us as we always have something tucked up our sleeves.

We hope to be using Tulleyvallen Shumacher on the majority of the ewes this year as we are really pleased with the lambs he has produced for us. Of course Knighton Slowsuck will have to have a few ewes. All the ladies love him. (Maybe it's the name?)

Look forward to seeing you all soon at Carlisle. Our 5 Gimmers going are beauties!

Butchers Opinion on a Rouge Carcass

Ballylane Flock put some bottom end rouge lambs to the slaughter house and they were purchased by Philip Wright from Farm Gate Meats below are some of his comments when I contacted him.

Good meat to bone ratio!

Nice Quality and Presenting meat!

Has a slight fat over the outside which is ideal!

A good heavy leg for their Shoulder cut!

When it was being cooked there none of the heavy strong lamb smell!

It was sweet tasting lamb, in fact you could (near taste the nettles they were fed on) he then laughed as this was a joke with Alan. He really enjoyed eating the rouge lamb!



My most amazing trip to France.

Life has a funny way of throwing you a curve ball and not always in a bad way. Through a mutual friend I was asked if a couple of French men could come and see my Rouge flock August 2016. During their visit I was asked if I had ever been to France, my answer was no, I would love to one day as I had been breeding Rouge for over 30 years. Long story short a trip was to be organised for North East of Scotland Farmers. However, as the date fast approached the North East farmers were dropping out and as we were going to see several rouge flocks I made the decision to ask some Rouge breeders to come along. I cannot thank Philippe enough, not only did he organise our hectic schedule of visits in France but he also acted as our interpreter and was also my host.



Paris Champion



Charbonnier Girls



There's the Paris Champion

We visited two Charolais Herds, and was lucky enough to see the Paris Show Champion Cow and calf. This followed with a visit to the Vendeen testing station where we saw a dog that thought it was a sheep, as it spent the whole day with the flock of sheep. We visited 7 Rouge flocks and the testing station where we saw 100 ram lambs (quite a sight to behold).

Some of my most memorable moments apart from seeing lots and lots of ROUGE SHEEP, Champagne and nibbles at 10.30 am, travelling in the back of a yellow transit van (converted for sheep) to see some rams, seeing a pigeon farm, our faces when we sampled an after dinner drink (the name escapes me, it was memorable for all the wrong reasons), having a photo shoot and someone shouting "witchesknickers", seeing a wall full of medals in one of the sheep sheds, meeting the infamous MR TALON (I have heard that name mentioned for 30 years), and finally the fantastic hospitality of the French farmers and Philippe. I will be forever grateful for such a fantastic trip.



Bleu Prizes



Chavey Flock



Checking Bleu's



Mr Talon



Pigeon Farm



Testing Station